



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
[www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov)

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/928,859	08/13/2001	Andreas Sahlbach	20010013	7848

7590            06/02/2006

HEWLET-PACKARD COMPANY  
Intellectual Property Administration  
P.O. Box 272400  
Fort Collins, CO 80527-2400

EXAMINER

FIELDS, COURTNEY D

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
	2137

DATE MAILED: 06/02/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>
	09/928,859	SAHLBACH, ANDREAS
	<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>
	Courtney D. Fields	2137

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 March 2006.
- 2a) This action is FINAL.                    2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-4, 6, 8-16, 18 and 20-28 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-4, 6, 8-16, 18 and 20-28 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a) All    b) Some \* c) None of:
  1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)                     |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                    | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____  |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____. | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
|   | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____.                                   |

### **DETAILED ACTION**

1. Claims 5,7,17,19, and 29 have been cancelled.
2. Claims 1-2,8-13,18,20-22 and 24-25 have been amended.
3. Claims 1-4,6,8-16,18 and 20-28 are pending.

#### ***Response to Arguments***

4. Applicant's arguments filed 08 March 2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.
5. Referring to the rejection of claims 1,13, and 25, the Applicant contends that the prior art (Tabbara et al.) does not disclose nor suggest signing an SU certificate with a signature using a private key and authenticating the signature with a public key. The Examiner respectfully disagrees and asserts that Tabbara et al. discloses a switch user certificate receiving a request from a first user on the nodes (several computers) to another user account (See Column 7, lines 13-43). Once the request is received, the switch user certificate is signed using a private key based on public-key cryptography (See Column 14, lines 33-45) In response to the request, the signature of the first user is authenticated with a public that is a counterpart of the private key (See Column 17, lines 14-39)
6. Therefore, the rejection of claims 1-4,6,8-16 and 20-28 are maintained in view of the reasons above and in view of the reasons below.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 1-4,6,8-16 and 20-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Tabbara et al. (US Patent No. 6,886,038).

Referring to the rejection of claims 1,13, and 25, Tabbara et al. discloses a method for providing a switch user functionality in a server-agent environment in an IT network comprising:

generating a switch user (SU) certificate upon receiving a request to switch from a first user account presently used on the node to a second user account (See Column 14, lines 15-40)

signing an SU certificate with a signature using a private key based on public-key cryptography (See Column 14, lines 50-64)

sending the SU certificate to the agent (See Column 14, lines 40-49)

authenticating the signature with a public key that is a counterpart of the private key (See Column 17, lines 14-39)

checking correctness of the SU certificate (See Column 14, lines 50-60)

and performing the requested switch to the second user account provided that the SU certificate is correct (See Column 14, lines 61-67, Column 15, lines 1-14)

Referring to the rejection of claims 2 and 14, Tabbara et al. discloses the claimed limitation wherein the server-agent environment comprises a network management server and wherein the agent is a management agent running on a managed node (See Column 4, lines 15-33)

Referring to the rejection of claims 3 and 15, Tabbara et al. discloses the claimed limitation wherein the SU certificate is generated by a designated server (See Column 13, lines 51-62)

Referring to the rejection of claims 4 and 16, Tabbara et al. discloses the claimed limitation wherein the agent forwards the received SU certificate to a domain controller which checks the correctness of the SU certificate and allows the agent to perform the requested switch user (See Column 13, lines 63-67)

Referring to the rejection of claims 6 and 18, Tabbara et al. discloses the claimed limitation wherein the public key is made public within the network or within a domain of the network in which the correctness of the SU certificate is checked (See Column 14, lines 21-25)

Referring to the rejection of claims 8 and 20, Tabbara et al. discloses the claimed limitation wherein checking the correctness of the SU certificate comprises verifying that the SU certificate originates from a designated server and has not been modified (See Column 15, lines 4-14)

Referring to the rejection of claims 9 and 21, Tabbara et al. discloses the claimed limitation wherein the SU certificate contains no password relating to the second user account (See Column 16, lines 58-64)

Referring to the rejection of claims 10 and 22, Tabbara et al. discloses the claimed limitation wherein the SU certificate comprises user name for the second user account and an identification of the node for which the switch is to be performed (See Column 16, lines 15-32)

Referring to the rejection of claims 11 and 23, Tabbara et al. discloses the claimed limitation wherein the SU certificate comprises a time stamp or another certificate identification stamp (See Column 14, lines 33-49)

Referring to the rejection of claims 12 and 24, Tabbara et al. discloses the claimed limitation wherein checking comprises verifying that the certificate is not outdated or has not been used before, by means of the time stamp or the certificate identification stamp (See Column 8, lines 54-67, Column 9, lines 1-12)

Referring to the rejection of claim 26, Tabbara et al. discloses the claimed limitation wherein the SU certificate generation component is a part of the management server (See Column 14, lines 61-67, Column 15, lines 1-3)

Referring to the rejection of claim 27, Tabbara et al. discloses the claimed limitation wherein the SU certificate checking component is a part of the domain controller (See Column 16, lines 47-57)

Referring to the rejection of claim 28, Tabbara et al. discloses the claimed limitation wherein a public key publication component (See Column 14, lines 4-14)

***Conclusion***

3. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

4. A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Courtney D. Fields whose telephone number is 571-272-3871. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon - Thurs. 6:00 - 4:00 pm; off every Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Emmanuel Moise can be reached on 571-272-3865. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Art Unit: 2137

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

CDR  
cdf  
May 29, 2006

  
EMMANUEL L. MOISE  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER